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REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were pending and considered. The Examiner indicated that claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 11 13 and 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1, 4, 7-9 and 15-20 were rejected. In response, claims 1, 10, 12 and 17-20 have been canceled, claims 2, 4, 11, 13 and 15 have been amended, and new claims 21 and 22 have been added. Claims 2-9, 11, 13-16, 21 and 22 are pending. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Response Regarding Claims Objected To But Indicated To Be Allowable

Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 11, 13 and 14 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, claim 2 has been rewritten to include all of the limitations of claim 1. Accordingly, claim 2 is now in proper independent form and should be allowed.

Claim 3 depends from now rewritten claim 2. Accordingly, claim 3 should be allowed in the original form and without amendment.

Claims 5 and 6 each depends from claim 4. Claim 4 has been amended to depend from rewritten claim 2. Since claim 4 now includes all of the limitations of claim 2, which the Examiner indicated to be allowable, it is respectfully submitted that claim 4 should also be allowable. Since the Examiner previously indicated that claims 5 and 6 would be allowable in independent form and each now depends from rewritten independent claim 2, it is respectfully submitted that claims 5 and 6 are now each allowable in their original form, without amendment.

Claim 10 has been cancelled.

Claim 11 has been amended to depend from claim 9. Claim 9 depends from claim 8 and claim 8 depends from amended claim 4. Since claim 4 is believed to be allowable for the reasons

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stated above, it is respectfully submitted that each of claims 8 and 9 also should be allowed together with claim 11, which the Examiner indicated to be allowable.

Claim 13 has been rewritten to include all the limitations of claim 12, from which claim 13 depended previously. Accordingly, Applicant is of the opinion that claim 13 is now in proper independent form and should be allowed.

Claim 14 depends from claim 13. Accordingly, since claim 13 is now in allowable independent form, claim 14 should be allowed without amendment.

Response Regarding Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 4, 7-9, 12, 15 and 16-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,589,597 (Robisch, et al.). In response, claims 1, 12 and 17-20 have been canceled, and claims 4 and 15 have been amended.

Claim 4 now depends from rewritten, claim 2, which the Examiner indicated to be allowable. Accordingly, claim 4, which includes all of the limitations of allowable claim 2 while adding further specificity to the invention recited in claim 2, should be allowed together with claim 2. Claims 7 and 8 depend from claim 4, and claim 9 depends from claim 8. Accordingly, for similar reasons, claims 7, 8 and 9 also should be allowed.

Claim 15 now depends from rewritten, claim 13, which the Examiner indicated to be allowable. Accordingly, claim 15, which includes all of the limitations of allowable claim 13 while adding further specificity to the invention recited in claim 13, should be allowed together with claim 13. Claim 16 depends from claim 15. Accordingly, for similar reasons, claim 16 also should be allowed.

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Newly Added Claims

New claims 21 and 22 have been added. Claim 21 is directed to the feature of an orifice behind the bell cup configured to emit a fan-like spray against the outer surface of the bell cup, with a cleaning fluid conduit connected to the orifice. This feature, now the subject of a new independent claim, is also recited as a dependent element in original claims 8 and 15. Newly added claim 22 further defines the configuration of the orifice, similarly to the recitations of original claims 9 and 16. Accordingly, the subject matter of the newly added claims is also subject matter of the original claims, already searched, albeit in different combinations.

The prior art cited and applied by the Examiner (Robisch et al.) teaches air jets 44 in air flow contact with passages 25. Air jets 44 are forwardly directed and provide a forwardly directed plurality of jets of air for shaping the atomized paint pattern as it develops from the bell 14 (column 4, line 67 through column 5, line 5).

Accordingly, the prior art cited by the Examiner teaches shaping air flow from behind the bell cup, but does not teach a cleaning fluid conduit in flow communication with an orifice behind the bell cup and the orifice being configured to emit a fan-like spray of cleaning fluid against the outer surface of the bell cup. It is respectfully submitted that the shaping air flow from behind the bell cup, as taught in the cited prior art, would tend to promote drying of any coating particles on the surface of the bell cup, not cleaning of the bell cup.

The subject matter of claims 21 and 22 is fully supported by the text of the pending application and was originally the subject matter of dependent claims 8, 9, 15 and 16. Further, the subject matter of claims 21 and 22 is disclosed at least in paragraph [33] of the pending application, and is shown in Fig. 5. Accordingly, Applicant is of the opinion that claims 21 and 22 are fully supported by the original disclosure of this application, and are not taught by the prior art. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests consideration and allowance of new claims 21 and 22.

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For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicants has overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicant hereby conditionally petitions therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

An "Associate Power Of Attorney" in favor of the undersigned is filed concurrently herewith. Should any question concerning this amendment arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. 703-872-9306, on July 18, 2005.

Raymond W. Campbell, Reg. No. 29,902

Name of Registered Representative



Signature

July 18, 2005

Date

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